

November 14, 2007

To: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Chair, Conservation Working Group

Re: **CWG Report – November 13, 2007 Meeting**

CWG Members Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC); Jean Holmes (LWVSB); Shiva Polefka (EDC)

CINMS Staff Present: Mike Murray, Natalie Senyk

Public Members Present: Ingrid Overgard

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Ingrid Overgard, Program Director at Seaflow, introduced herself. She is visiting our area from Marin. She is working on a campaign to reduce noise in national marine sanctuaries.

II. MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mike Murray provided an update regarding the Supplemental Draft EIS and Proposed Rule regarding sewage and gray water discharges from large vessels. The CINMS is waiting for final clearance so that the documents can be released for public review and comment. We discussed the need and rationale for the proposed changes to the Management Plan. We also recognized that Alternative 1 in the Draft EIS already includes a recommendation that sewage discharges from large vessels be prohibited in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the new Proposed Rule is to elevate that recommendation to the “Preferred Alternative” and to add a recommendation that gray water discharges also be prohibited, to ensure consistency with recently enacted state law. Such discharges are already prohibited within the state waters portion of the Sanctuary. The CWG is supportive of these changes and will likely comment on the draft documents when they are released for public review.

III. CLEARWATER PORT LNG PROJECT

We discussed the upcoming panel presentation scheduled for the November SAC meeting. Mike announced that Crystal Spurr from the CA State Lands Commission has been added to the agenda. We talked about the potential roles for the SAC and CINMS, given that this project would have a direct effect on the Sanctuary and its resources. The LNG tankers will travel through the Sanctuary, and the regasification facility (on Platform Grace) would be located approximately 3 miles from the Sanctuary. We recommended that the SAC and CINMS assist with public education about the project,

including presentations at SAC meetings and possible co-sponsorship of a public forum, similar to the one that was held to educate the public about the Cabrillo Port LNG Project. We also pointed out that the SAC can advise the CINMS Superintendent regarding our thoughts or concerns about the Project, and ask the CINMS to take an active role in reviewing and commenting on the Project. Although the November panel presentation is focused on educating the public about the lead agencies with jurisdiction over the Project, we agreed that in the future it may be appropriate to hear from the applicant and other interested parties.

IV. SAC MEETING AGENDA FOR 11/16

- A. Blue Whale Deaths: Natalie reported that the CINMS conducted some overflights to determine whale presence and help notify whale mariners, in an effort to prevent further ship strikes. Data from the overflights is available on the CINMS website. As Natalie and Mike pointed out, we need to figure out how to prepare for next year's blue whale season, as well as migration by other large cetaceans. We discussed the potential role for the CINMS, including help with scientific research, monitoring, and follow-up. We also discussed the possibility of the CINMS and SAC providing a vehicle to bring various stakeholders together to discuss the issues and potential solutions. We talked about the recent attempts to get large vessels to reduce speed through the Channel, and our disappointment that the federal government did not take a more aggressive approach to this effort. We also recognized that reducing ship speed can result in other benefits as well (e.g. reduced air pollution).
- B. Artificial Reefs: John Ugoretz (CDFG) will provide a presentation regarding the state's artificial reef program.
- C. Marine Reserves: Mike reported that the CDFG did request, and receive, expedited review. Accordingly, the "gap" areas may be protected by mid-December.

V. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Ocean Acidification: EDC and Bruce Steele have identified ocean acidification as a serious emerging issue facing the CINMS. We agreed that this would be a good topic for the next CWG report, with Shiva taking the lead and working with Bruce, scientists, and other interested CWG and SAC members. We also agreed that we would like the SAC to host a presentation by scientists to educate us and the public on the issue. Finally, we agreed that this would be a good topic for consideration at the 2008 SAC Chairs meeting, as this is an issue that could have a profound effect on all national marine sanctuaries. Shiva mentioned that the current National Geographic has an article on this topic.

- B. “Blue Seas, Green Communities:” Mike directed our attention to a letter from Dan Basta, inviting Sanctuaries and SACs to participate in an initiative focused on “greening” our Sanctuaries and communities. We will ask if any CWG members want to be involved in this issue.
- C. CWG Involvement: In recognition of the relatively low participation by several CWG members, Linda agreed to write a letter to all CWG members, asking them to indicate their interest in continuing their involvement on the CWG. The letter will identify issues that the CWG is working on, as well as issues that may come up in the next year, and ask the members to indicate which issues they are interested in working on.
- D. Noise: we had a very interesting discussion about the work that Seaflow is doing in their campaign to reduce noise in national marine sanctuaries.